In addition, the State Governments are taking steps to discourage the practice of shifting cultivation and enforce anti-poaching measures.

Forest Cover

†1004. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that at present the total forest cover in the country is 19.2 per cent only;

(b) if not, the facts in their regard;

(c) whether 33 per cent forest cover is necessary for maintaining healthy environment;

(d) if so, whether Government have formulated any scheme to develop forests in the waste land in the country; and

(e) if so, the details of the scheme, alongwith names of the States where waste land is available at present and the area of such land in each state?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) As per the State of Forest Report, 1997, forest cover of the country is 19.27% of the geographical area.

(c) Yes Sir,

(d) & (e) 1. A National forestry action plan has been formulated for bringing one-third of the geographical area under forest/tree cover. The programme is aimed at following:

(i) Protecting existing forest resources.

(ii) Improving forest productivity.

(iii) Reducing demands for forest products.

(iv) Strengthening Policy and institutional frame work.

(v) Expanding forest cover.

Afforestation is done by State Government from their own resources, externally aided projects and under following centrally sponsored afforestation schemes of the Ministry;

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(i) Area Oriented Fuelwood and Fodder Project Scheme.
(ii) Integrated Afforestation & Eco-Development Project.
(iii) Non-timber Forest Produce Scheme.
(iv) Grant-in-aid to voluntary agencies.
(v) Seed development schemes.
(vi) Association of Scheduled Tribes and Rural poor in afforestation of degraded forest lands.

Statewise details of wastelands i.e. scrub area of less than 10% density as per State of Forest Report 1997 is given in statement.

Statement

(in sq. km.)

State/UT	Scrub
Andhra Pradesh	11,191
Arunachal Pradesh	415
Assam	635
Bihar	1,916
Delhi	2
Goa	16
Gujarat	2,780
Haryana	157
Himachal Pradesh	1,825
Jammu & Kashmir	3,088
Karnataka	4,566
Kerala	83
Madhya Pradesh	3,320
Maharashtra	7,380
Manipur	911
Meghalaya	849
Mizoram	937
Nagaland	70
Orissa	5.461
Punjab	116
Rajasthan	6,781
Sikkim	439
Tamil Nadu	2,832

State/UT	Scrub
Tripura	150
Uttar Pradesh	1,170
West Bengal	109
A&N Islands	—
Chandigarh	—
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	12
Daman & Diu	—
Lakshdweep*	—
Pondicherry*	—
Total	57,211

*No discernible forest cover.

Deforestation for construction of Highway

†1005. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal regarding deforestation of 107 hectare of forest land for construction of Kotdwar-Kalagarh-Ram Nagar Motor highway in Garhwal district of Uttar Pradesh is pending with the Central Government; and

(b) by when the said proposal is likely to be approved; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The proposal for diversion of 63.894 hectares of forest land for construction of Kotdwar-Kalagarh-Ram Nagar Motor road in district Pauri, Uttar Pradesh has been approved in-principle on 22.11.1999

Poaching of Tigers and Elephants

1006. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether, as reported in the Asian Age, (Delhi Age) of April 29, 1999, poaching of tigers and elephants in India is directly linked with a reach to lucrative market in Japan for the parts and products of these animals; and

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.